

LOTW 2010 G.I.F.T. Session - **Mapping Library Resources**

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What it was: A low-tech exercise designed to familiarize students with the geography of the library, by asking them to locate material on the shelves and create a collaborative map of where they found it.

Who it was for: First year Information Design students. The materials they need are scattered throughout the collection – graphic design, typography, internet usability, etc., and in multiple formats – monographs, serials, videos. They also often need print materials rather than e-versions, as there are design considerations in print that may be lost online.

Goals: To introduce students to the online catalogue, to ensure they could translate a call number on the screen to an item on the shelf, to encourage browsing, and to familiarize them with the library's collections.

Why it worked:

- **Timing** – the students had seen me in another course where we reviewed electronic sources for a different assignment earlier in the week. So I didn't have to teach them EVERYTHING.
- **Assignment** - students had a small, immediate assignment – to review one of the items they located; and would have another one (with another focussed library session) on historical aspects of communication. In the meantime they had multiple assignments in other courses where awareness of resources would help
- **Fun** - it was an active session, encouraging exploration, and obviously different from their previous workshops

The activity: Students were given a brief demonstration of the online catalogue, and encouraged to generate and try different keywords to do with information design. They were asked to find one of the items in the collection and bring it back, for their reviewing assignment. Students also had a blank map on which they were to mark where they found the item, and transfer that information to an overhead transparency of the same map. This information was later transferred to a web version of the map all students could access for later searching.

What happened: Students were so caught up in the activity they brought back books and videos and journals by the armload. There was quite a lot of discussion as they marked up the map. The Instructors in the program reported students used greater numbers and variety of print sources.

The Map



How could you use this?